

PAWTUCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 6:30 PM

**Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts Media Center
350 Division Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860**

Minutes

I. Meeting will come to order

The Chairman, Mr. Charbonneau, called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

a. Roll call

**Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Dube-here; Ms. Grant-here;
Mr. Knight-here; Ms. McQuade-here; Mr. Charbonneau-here**

Also in attendance were Mrs. Patricia DiCenso, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Kathleen Suriani, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Melissa Devine, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Hersh Cristino, Chief Information and Innovation Officer; Mr. Dennis Rebelo, Facilities Director; Mr. Michael Connolly, Applied Learning Coordinator; Dr. Michael Hall, Roger Williams University

b. Pledge of Allegiance

The Superintendent, Mrs. DiCenso, led the audience in the Pledge of

Allegiance.

Mrs. DiCenso commented that she would like a moment to share some recent losses of teacher spouses and a colleague.

Mrs. DiCenso acknowledged the tragic loss of Kerri Mendez husband, Jose; the sudden loss of Leonor DeArmas beloved husband, Scott Hollingsworth.

Mrs. DiCenso commented on the passing of colleague Mr. David Geraghty, a man we will never forget with a beautiful smile. He was the Assistant Principal at Shea and Tolman and everyone who knew his name knew he always had a solution especially when it came to the students. He was truly loved by the kids and was moved to Tolman and put together the long missed school advisors and re-instituted school spirit. He was a champion for children.

Mrs. DiCenso expressed condolences to all the families for their losses.

Mrs. DiCenso asked the Chairman for a moment of silence.

II. Celebration/Recognition

None.

III. Presentation

Dr. Michael Hall, Roger Williams University—Shea Government Academy

The Chairman, Mr. Charbonneau, invited Mr. Connolly to introduce Dr. Michael Hall.

Mr. Connolly: There are times you get to work with someone who is head and shoulders above the rest. We've had that opportunity. Shea High School has the only American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) chapter in the United States. Shea is a national model recognized by the United States Department of Education. The kids did a great job and worked with the Census Program. Our program has been revered by Dr. Hall allowing everyone in the rest of the nation to see what we see. Dr. Michael Hall is Director of the Masters' Program and has taught public administration for thirty eight (38) years. Dr. Hall has published in several journals and is the President of the Rhode Island Chapter of ASPA.

Dr. Hall: Thank you for the introduction. I would like to invite everyone to the 7th Annual Leadership and Public Service Conference on May 4, 2016 at the Bristol Campus of Roger Williams University. It's an invitation to see the students we have been working with. When I arrived in Rhode Island in 2006 and found myself surrounded by high school students. The students arranged

the conference on public policy. We had four floors filled from Shea and the next year they did a mock election and the next year we needed to get the students more involved in public administration. At the beginning the students were part of the academy and they impressed me with their engagement. You will see students working on assignments I've assigned them. They will be challenged as their peers in the past were. I have not been disappointed yet. The conference starts at 9:30 AM and goes until 2:00 PM.

We have keynote speakers who have watched them perform. Each year the President returned to the National Conference and asked me to return to speak about it. I asked a colleague to go in my place who received a call this past week from Pennsylvania who asked how we do it and if we could help her. There is some trepidation because the students are impressive. Students can receive college credits. All have performed well. Students go on to receive Ivy League acceptance. I had written to the journal editor and asked him to review it. I worked on it and they took it. i.e. "Knowledge transfer and teaching public administration: The Academy Model." The students at Tolman and Shea are famous internationally. They will be working with police agencies the Red Cross, etc. and work to create a new classroom on what they would be working on in the future in a three dimensional model.

They couldn't believe these students are in high school. The students took pictures of monuments, buildings and created new

versions of what they had seen. The Mayor's Assistant went with them. We've done this on a shoe string and that money was taken away a few years ago; about \$50,000.00. If we had that money, we could have done much more including transportation to the Bristol Campus and have them work in the library to prepare for the April conference. It is now my pleasure to have my story told.

Mr. Connolly has an electronic version of the manuscript. Please come see the work on May 4, 2016. Thank you.

Mrs. DiCenso: Thank you, Dr. Hall, for exposing them to post-secondary learning. Is this where Perkins took it out?

Mr. Connolly: Yes, I lost funding from Learn and Serve, about \$35,000.00 replaced by an Edward Kennedy Scholarship which is given to the State Department of Education. The Commissioner decided not to apply for them. It was a \$225,000.00 grant that was lost. Roger Williams University received Perkins money and I used that to fund our program. That too was reduced by 65%. I was able to get some money from the State Legislature, but the program marches on.

Mrs. DiCenso: I want to tell everyone here that Mike always gets the job done. Thank you, Michael.

IV. Special Reports of Student Representatives

- **Charles E. Shea High School**

Shea Student Representative: Good evening. The ninth graders will be receiving chromebooks thank to the Pawtucket School Department. The Boys' Basketball team took down the city rivals, Tolman. Next week will be busy with mid-term exams and portfolio early presentations. Lip Sync battle is scheduled for January 28, 2016 which is a fundraiser and costs \$2.00 at the door. We want to wish everyone the best of luck.

- **William E. Tolman High School**

Tolman Student Representative: In January the PTSA are scheduled for tomorrow evening. This morning the Secretary of State attended a presentation regarding voter registration. We are preparing for exams for next week. The Basketball and Swim teams have new coaches and are off to a strong start.

- **Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts**

JMW Student Representative: It's been a slow month at JMW. In the Arts Department last Saturday the juniors and seniors went to RITC. It was good to get feedback from the lighting designer. Mid-terms are next week. The Winter Ball is at the LeFoyer on January 22, 2016. Senior Night is coming up and Open Mic Night.

V. Public Participation

Comments from the public are invited at this time. Persons wishing to speak should sign in with the Committee Chair before speaking. The Committee is precluded from discussing or acting on items raised by Public Comment which are not already on the agenda. Public comment will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Mr. Ronald Beaupre: Good evening. I am here to talk about Community Schools. It's the lead initiative that teachers have. Our goals and objectives were distributed and we attended an informational session and Jodie said we have to bring this to Pawtucket. Community Schools are not just about Community Schools. Community Schools help develop career, health and life care. We would start in pre-school and presented this to Patti, Lee and Kathy. How are we going to get this going? We need to move through the initiative in Rhode Island. We decided Agnes Little School would be the pilot school and on the last day of school, June 26, we held a kickoff at Little in which School Committee Member, Mr. Araujo was present.

This is a program we need to get up and running because of the idea of school reform, there are many grant resources out there. We need someone totally devoted to do this. A really true partnership with the community, this program is very important through the summer. We've had teams of teachers and the PTO participate in the kick-off meeting. We've had 2-4 meetings. Partnerships for student behavior

and that's what before you today. The result of this. We are excited to get this going. I encourage you to vote for this job description, pending funding.

Mrs. DiCenso: If I may add, we've begun the journey of helping our school and begun with community partnerships i.e. Boys Town and give them space to come in and work with us. This is something the Pawtucket Teachers Alliance and School Administration has partnered with. Thank you, Ron.

VI. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Mr. Knight moved to table the January 5, 2016 organizational meeting minutes because they are not complete. Mr. Araujo seconded.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Knight-yes; Ms. McQuade-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

Mr. Knight moved to approve and accept the previous meeting minutes of December 15, 2015. Ms. Grant seconded.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Knight-yes; Ms. McQuade-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

VII. New Business Discussion/Action Items

a. Certified Appointment

Mrs. DiCenso: I ask the Committee to appoint School Nurse Teacher, one year position at Baldwin Elementary School, Susan Pielech and Speech Language Pathologist, one year position, District, Kaitlyn Turcotte.

Ms. McQuade moved to appoint the certified appointments of School Nurse Teacher, one year position at Baldwin Elementary School, Susan Pielech and Speech Language Pathologist, one year position, District, Kaitlyn Turcotte. Ms. Bonollo and Ms. Grant seconded.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Knight-yes; Ms. McQuade-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

b. Community School Coordinator Job Description

Mrs. DiCenso: I think we had a clear job description. The purpose for this position was clear and I ask you to approve the Community School Coordinator job description written pending funding.

Ms. Dube moved to approve the Community School Coordinator job description pending funding. Ms. Grant seconded.

Ms. Grant: As the program gets up and running, would we take on each school or grow to have multiple down the line?

Mrs. DiCenso: We would focus on the pilot. The person would be responsible to make the connection. This is an initiative to get off the ground. We want to create a pipeline for resources to build from the ground up.

Mr. Araujo: This would be the role model in Pawtucket.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Knight-yes; Ms. McQuade-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

c. Budget Transfers

Mrs. DiCenso: We moved \$9,500.00 from building repairs to fire alarm and safety for the Varieur upgrade and \$18,117.00 from the charter school tuition line to Shea/Tolman Salaries-Fringe and Travel. We felt we had extra funding to support something not funded for a match and the match is not in the budget. We're moving it to serve the Tolman and Shea model.

Mr. Knight moved to approve the budget transfers: \$9,500.00 from building repairs to fire alarm and safety for the Varieur upgrade and \$18,117.00 from the charter school tuition line to Shea/Tolman Salaries-Fringe and Travel. Ms. Grant seconded.

Mr. Knight: Do we need to amend the budget from this position?

Mrs. DiCenso: We're not hiring the person. It's a vendor position.

Ms. Devine: These are living allowances that we have to pay and code as stipends.

Mr. Knight: Do we have to amend the budget?

Ms. Devine: No. We're amending that line.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Knight-yes; Ms. McQuade-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

d. Award of Bids—Custodial Supplies

Mrs. DiCenso: We have bid awards for the purchase of school commodity supplies and have provided the information behind it:

**Banner-\$9,145.21; Casey-\$51,197.00; Grainger-\$2,289.72;
Supreme-\$4,774.00**

Mr. Araujo moved to approve the award of bids-commodities to Banner-\$9,145.21; Casey-\$51,197.00; Grainger-\$2,289.72; Supreme-\$4,774.00. Ms. Grant seconded.

Mr. Charbonneau: Why don't we consolidate and put it out as one item?

Mr. Rebelo: That \$51,000.00 we don't buy it all at one time. Years ago we would bring 60 cases and now we only get billed for what we bring in. It's been done this way for a long time. We eliminated a lot of

items and waited to get a better inventory. It's half of what we've gone out for in the past.

Ms. Devine: Not every vendor bids as a master. Casey may get all stripper but no one else offers it. If two companies offer the same item, we go with the cheapest.

Mr. Knight: How does it compare to the State MPA?

Mr. Rebelo: Casey is on the State MPA.

Mrs. DiCenso: I asked the same question of Melissa Devine. It's common to go out for pricing. We can get better prices.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Knight-yes; Ms. McQuade-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

e. Out of State Field Trips

- Pawtucket Learning Academy to Boston, MA January 15, 2016
- Shea High School to Seekonk, MA February 10, 2016

Mrs. DiCenso: We have two requests for out of state field trips for

your approval: Pawtucket Learning Academy to Boston, MA on January 15, 2016 and Shea High School to Seekonk, MA on February 10, 2016.

Ms. McQuade moved to approve the out of state field trips; Pawtucket Learning Academy to Boston, MA on January 15, 2016 and Shea High School to Seekonk, MA on February 10, 2016. Mr. Araujo seconded.

Mr. Knight: How many chaperones will there be?

Mrs. DiCenso: MTTI is a trip to visit a technical school.

Mrs. Rabbitt: Assuming all permission slips come back, there will be four.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Dube-yes; Ms. Grant-yes; Mr. Knight-yes; Ms. McQuade-yes; Mr. Charbonneau-yes

Motion carries unanimously.

VIII. Discussion Items

a. City Expense Report

Mrs. DiCenso commented that the Committee had been provided with

the monthly reports; the School Department is showing a \$75,000.00 surplus, the City is showing a \$1M surplus on the City Expense report. Mrs. DiCenso asked the Committee if they had any questions.

Ms. Devine added that the City Expense Reports are always two months behind.

b. Monthly Vendor Report

Mr. Charbonneau: East Coast Masonry \$20,000.00. Is that from the performance bond?

Ms. Devine: It is the final payment for the first set of stairs at Shea.

c. Budget Transfer Report

No Discussion.

d. Monthly Employee Overtime Report

Mrs. DiCenso: We've been working hard on this. I will say Dennis made sure we had a major shift from Curtis to the Central Office from when school closed and re-opened and with that we are still \$86,000.00 ahead of last year.

Mr. Knight: Ahead of below?

Mrs. DiCenso: We're coming in less and less.

Mr. Charbonneau: I look at Tolman and Shea, the extra-curricular and maintenance are in line. The Shea custodial number is 2.5 times more than Tolman.

Mr. Rebelo: We took extra time to strip the gymnasium floors.

Ms. Devine: That's a year to date number but is probably \$1,600 over the previous month and one was \$1,000.00. Those numbers are from July 1, 2015.

Mrs. DiCenso: We did some major lifts at Tolman so if we could get the differences.

e. Maintenance Work Orders

Mrs. DiCenso: I would like to see the day when we have no open work orders. We have 157 work orders as of January 5, 2016; 82 work orders were completed in December, 2015. At the last meeting Ms. Bonollo requested information about the oldest work order. That work order is dated August 26, 2015 which requires adding additional plugs in a classroom at Shea. This requires wiring from the breaker panel along with outing the wiring in the electrical conduit. The nearest panel is 100 feet from this location.

Mr. Rebelo: Another thing besides the ones the school put in are the ones John and Leslie and I put in at the office. I received 40 tickets in two days. I've put aside 5-10 work orders that will take time and we'll do during school breaks with no children in the schools.

Mr. Knight: Can I ask Hersh a question? I read a parent's email asking the parent to set up at home so the child could sign on home computer. The parent wanted the child to sign on the home computer from home and we wouldn't let him. He wanted to let the child leave it at school.

Hersh: There are three instances where it's written in an IEP other than that no other kids have that.

Mrs. DiCenso: WE haven't even let them take them home yet.

Hersh: They need them for school instruction.

Mrs. DiCenso: If a child wants to use their own personal computer. The child will be allowed that. They are not allowed to take home computer to school.

Mr. Knight: I read it in the tele times.

IX. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. DiCenso: I will be presenting data at the February meeting. I gave the Principals a big charge to work with the teachers to find ways to help students in school. Especially at Shea. We have seen elementary school suspensions go down. We used data to decide how does sending them home help us and how are we able to help them in school. I want to thank Ron and the Principals for being patient. We worked with the school social worker to give student support for kindergarten students to acclimate to school.

This was a big change for us and different from conducting business. I am blown away by new data significantly reduced four elementary schools have zero suspensions and some elementary and junior high schools are in single digits. We constantly are coming up with an extended school day and reflect on their good behavior. The message is students can't learn if they are not in school. Teachers worked very hard with their leaders. You need to be applauded for takin that risk. Thank you for that.

X. Special Reports of School Committee Members

Mr. Araujo: Good night. Thank you for coming.

Ms. Bonollo: Good night.

Ms. Dube: Good night.

Ms. Grant: Good night

Mr. Knight: Thank you for coming. Good night everybody.

Ms. McQuade: Happy 2016! Good night.

Mr. Charbonneau: This is why I kept running when I lost the previous year. I wanted to be part of this team. I am grateful. Thank you and good night. Don't forget your Powerball tickets.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Knight moved to adjourn. Ms. Bonollo and Ms. Grant seconded.

Voice vote carries unanimously.

The Chairman, Mr. Charbonneau adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

Approved by School Committee 1/26/16